

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 00974 111844Z

47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06 L-03 H-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 SS-20 NSC-10

SPC-03 NEA-10 PRS-01 USIE-00 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 078043

O R 111800Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6025

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

MEMBASSY ROME 9109

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 0974

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: ENRG, EC, FR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: FONOFF HAS GIVEN US PRELIMINARY GOF REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE. THIS CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH INVITATION HAS RAISED IN THEIR MINDS ABOUT FORUM LEVEL AND PARTICIPATION. THEY STRESS THAT THIS IS NOT A FINAL POSITION. THIS COULD BE COMMUNICATED TO US AT THE EARLIEST ONLY AFTER AN EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO CONCERT AN EC POSITION AT JANUARY 14-15 MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 00974 111844Z

1. CABOUAT, SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIAL HANDLING ENERGY MATTERS UNDER BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, CALLED MINECON JANUARY 11 ON BRUNET'S INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE US PRELIMINARY GOF REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE AS THEY HAD BEEN PRESENTED AT MEETING OF EC PERMREPS IN BRUSSELS SAME DAY. CABOUAT STRESSED THAT WHAT HE HAD TO TELL US WAS NOT FINAL FRENCH POSITION BUT MERELY CERTAIN PRELIMINARY REFLECTIONS.

2. CABOUAT BEGAN BY SAYING THAT FRANCE COULD NOT ANSWER PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION IMMEDIATELY SINCE IT POSED CERTAIN PROBLEM AND RAISED QUESTIONS IN THE MINDS OF THE FRENCH WHICH THEY NEEDED TO STUDY.

3. IN THE FIRST PLACE, GOF DID NOT THINK IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO TREAT ALL ENERGY PROBLEMS IN THE SAME FORUM. THE ENERGY CRISIS HAD SEVERAL DIFFERENT ASPECTS -- FOR EXAMPLE, TECHNOLOGICAL, MARKETING, PRICING -- AND THESE CONCEIVABLY JUSTIFIED TREATMENT IN DIFFERENT FORUMS. OTHERWISE, THERE WAS GREAT RISK OF CONFUSION.

4. SECONDLY, THE GOF WAS TROUBLED BY CERTAIN POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION. IT FEARED THAT, BY LIMITING THE INITIAL MEETING TO CONSUMER GOVERNMENTS, THE IMPRESSION WOULD BE CREATED OF A CARTEL OF RICH COUNTRIES LINED UP IN OPPOSITION TO POOR PRODUCING COUNTRIES. EVEN GRANTING THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL ENVISAGED SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS GROUPING PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, THE INITIAL MEETING, SINCE IT WOULD BE HELD AT THE FOREIGN MINSTER LEVEL WITH MUCH FANFARE, WOULD BE SO SPECTACULAR THAT IT WOULD SET THE TONE FOR ALL THAT FOLLOWED.

5. THIRD, THE GOF WAS PUZZLED ABOUT THE CHOICE OF COUNTRIES INVITED. THESE WERE THE HLG COUNTRIES OF OECD PLUS VAN LENNEP. WHY THEN HAD WE NOT PROPOSED THAT THE MEETING BE HELD IN THE OECD FRAMEWORK? AND EVEN IF THE INITIAL MEETING WAS NOT HELD IN THE OECD, WOULD IT NOT BE PREFERABLE FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN THE OECD AND OTHER APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE UN AND THE UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES? CABOUAT SAID THE GOF HAD NO PARTICULAR PROPOSALS TO MAKE ON THIS POINT BUT WAS MERELY THROWING OUT THE IDEA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 00974 111844Z

6. FOURTH, THE GOF QUESTIONED THE DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING THE FIRST MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THE FRENCH WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE PRELIMINARY MEETINGS AT A LOWER LEVEL AT WHICH PREPARATORY WORK FOR A LATER MINISTERIAL MEETING COULD BE DONE.

7. CABOUAT SAID GOF WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE A CONSIDERED REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S INVITATION AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER

AN EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO CONCERT THE POSITIONS OF THE NINE EC GOVERNMENTS, WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE DONE AT THE JANUARY 14-15 MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

8. MINECON ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE GAVE GOF WASHINGTON REACTION TO THESE PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS. HE REPLIED THEY WERE NOT SEEKING THIS FOR THE PRESENT. THE GOF WANTED TO PASS THEM ALONG MERELY TO MAINTAIN OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH US. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO DEFER ANY DIALOGUE WITH US ON THESE QUESTIONS UNTIL AFTER NEXT WEEK'S EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING.

9. COMMENT: THESE PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE LINE WE HAD EXPECTED THE GOF WOULD TAKE (PARIS 743 AND 840). IN SPITE OF CABOUAT'S REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL IN PARAGRAPH 8, WE THINK IT MIGHT ENABLE US TO HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON THE EC DISCUSSION IF WE COULD PASS ON TO THE GOF ANY REACTION THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO EXPRESS ON THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY CABOUAT. TO BE OF ANY USE, THESE REACTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE RECEIVED BY START OF BUSINESS JANUARY 14.
STONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, IMPORTS, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS00974
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740147/aaaabspg.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE SUMMARY: FONOFF HAS GIVEN US PRELIMINARY GOF REACTION TO
TAGS: ENRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005